

Application No.: 09/751268
Customer No. 23932

Docket No.: 45060-00006USPT

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. No claims have been amended, canceled, or added.

Claims 66 – 80 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,216,612 to Cornett et al. ("Cornett") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,827,423 to Beasley et al. ("Beasley"). Cornett is directed to a computer maintenance system and method in which an electronically-stored parts manual contains a hierarchical listing of parts and a maintenance operations computer controller. The maintenance operations computer controller includes a maintenance schedule management subsystem, an engineering change control subsystem, a parts manual management subsystem, and a spares inventory management subsystem. Beasley is directed to a computer integrated manufacturing system that includes a plurality of levels of computer control for organizing and disseminating information for controlling shop floor level systems.

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited combination of Cornett and Beasley fails to teach, suggest or render obvious at least one of the distinguishing features of claim 66. In particular, claim 66 includes, among other things, a computerized system that includes a software object representing equipment in an industrial plant. Information related to automatic control of the equipment is stored in the object, maintenance and monitoring information related to the equipment is obtained and stored in the object, and information in the object is used to determine whether the equipment is to be replaced.

Applicant respectfully submits that, in contrast to claim 66, the cited combination of Cornett and Beasley, singularly or in combination, fails to teach, suggest, or render obvious at least the above-described features of independent claim 66, in that the cited combination in no way discloses performing any of the above-described steps relative to a software object representing equipment in an industrial plant. For at least the above-stated reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 66 distinguishes over the cited combination and is in condition for allowance.

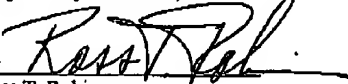
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In view of the above, each of the presently-pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Dated: November 29, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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